

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02458

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: SOME SALIENT FEATURES
OF THE MARCH 8 EWG MEETING

REFS: (A) STATE 058553 DTG 080012Z MAR 78, (B) USNATO 927
DTG 271922Z JAN 78, NOTAL

1. WE VIEWED US OBJECTIVES AT THE MARCH 8 EWG MEETING
ON THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) TO BE
1) REGISTRATION OF THE US' INITIAL VIEWS ON TASK FORCE
REPORTS, 2) DAMAGE LIMITING ANY SIGNS FROM THE ALLIES
OF NEGATIVISM OR A MINIMALIST APPROACH, 3) AGREEMENT
ON A FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEXT EWG MEETING MARCH 21-23
COMPATIBLE WITH US VIEWS. WE CONSIDER THAT THESE
OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED.

2. THE CHAIRMAN, ASYG MUMFORD, DISCOURAGED SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCES, AND THERE WAS NONE.
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ALL WHO ADDRESSED THE REPORTS IN GENERAL TERMS APPLAUDED
THEIR QUALITY. FOR THE MOST PART, DISCUSSION CENTERED
ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEXT EWG
MEETING. SOME INNOVATIVE SUGGESTIONS FROM ALLIES INCLUDED
THE FOLLOWING:

- A. THE IS, RESPONDING TO A SUGGESTION FROM THE UK

REP (PETERS), WILL PRODUCE A SET OF "WORK SHEETS" LISTING IN SERIAL ORDER THE 50 MAJOR SUB-PROGRAMS EMERGING FROM TASK FORCE REPORTS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR 180-PROGRAMS. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK SHEETS IS TO AID REPS AT THE NEXT EWG MEETING, BY ENSURING THAT ALL ARE AWARE OF EXACTLY WHICH RECOMMENDATION IS BEING ADDRESSED.

- B. THE UK REP SUGGESTED THAT, IN ORDER TO FOCUS COMMENT AT THE MARCH 21-23 MEETING, THE EWG CONSIDER ADOPTING AN APPROACH BEING USED BY THE UK IN ITS LTDP DELIBERATIONS WHEREBY EACH AGENCY COMMENTING ON A PARTICULAR PROPOSAL MUST FINALLY BOIL DOWN ITS COMMENTS TO ONE OF THREE RESPONSES: 1) YES, 2) YES IN PRINCIPLE BUT MORE WORK IS NEEDED, OR 3) A PRELIMINARY VIEW IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE PROPOSAL IS NOT DEVELOPED FULLY ENOUGH. THE US REP (LEGERE) REMARKED THAT THIS APPROACH SMACKED OF PLACING PROPOSALS IN CATEGORIES; INDEED THE UK'S THREE RESPONSES PARALLEL CLOSELY THE THREE CATEGORIES IN REF B. THE US REP NOTED THAT CONSENSUS IN THE EWG HAD BEEN THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SET INTO THE BUSINESS OF CATEGORIZING AT THE MARCH 21-23 MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING CLOSING THE DOOR ON THE UK'S SUGGESTION AS IT OFFERED A WAY TO SPEED UP ADDRESSAL OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY AIDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS THE EWG WOULD NEED TO DISCUSS MOST THOROUGHLY.
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3. WE ARE REPORTING ON THE MARCH 8 EWG MEETING MORE EXTENSIVELY BY SEPTTEL. BENNETT

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